Chousath Yogini Temple, Mitawali, Madhya Pradesh

Info is given under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Sub-deities daily rituals and poojas and their charges ..special poojas and rituals and their charges.. festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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AI Overview

The 11th-century Chausath Yogini Temple in Mitaoli, Madhya Pradesh, is a unique, circular, hilltop shrine built by the Kachchhapaghata dynasty (c. 1055–1075) dedicated to 64 yoginis and Shiva. Located near Padavali, its distinct circular design features 64-65 chambers surrounding a central temple, often noted for its resemblance to the Indian Parliament building.

Key Details and Highlights:

- **Architecture:** The temple is built on a 100-foot-high hill, featuring a 170-foot radius circular wall with 64 small, open chambers, each with a shivalinga (originally dedicated to Yoginis) and a central, open mandapa dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- **Location:** Situated in Mitaoli village, Morena district, roughly 30-40 km from Gwalior.
- **Historical Significance:** It is an ASI-protected monument known for having survived various earthquakes due to its robust design.
- **Tantric Tradition:** It was historically a center for learning and practicing tantric rituals.
- **Visitor Information:** The site is accessible via about 100-200 steps and is best visited between October and March.
- **Associated Legend:** Its circular structure often draws comparisons to the Indian Parliament building, which some believe was influenced by this design.

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The Chausath Yogini Temple (also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple or Chausath Yogini Mandir) in Mitawali (spelled variably as Mitaoli or Mitavali) is an ancient, circular, open-to-the-sky (hypaethral) temple in Madhya Pradesh, India.

It is a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and part of a tentative UNESCO World Heritage nomination for Chausath Yogini Temples.

Location, Address, Phone
Location: Mitaoli village, near Padaoli, Morena district, Madhya Pradesh.
Address: Chausath Yogini Temple, Mitaoli, Morena District, Madhya Pradesh 476444 (approximate PIN code from local references).

Coordinates: Approximately 26.4369° N, 78.2352° E.
Phone/Contact: No dedicated official phone number is widely listed for the temple (as it is an ASI-protected site). For inquiries, contact the local ASI office in Bhopal or Morena district tourism office. General Madhya Pradesh Tourism helpline: Check mptourism.com for updates.

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport, Gwalior (~30-40 km away). Taxis or cabs are available.

By Train: Nearest stations include Morena Railway Station (~25-30 km) or Gwalior (~40-55 km). Gohad Road station is also nearby for some routes.

By Road: Well-connected by buses from Morena and Gwalior (MP State Road Transport Corporation). Hire a private cab/taxi from Gwalior (recommended for a day trip covering nearby sites). The temple is atop a ~100-foot hillock with about 100 steps to climb—no road access to the top.

Best Approach: Combine with nearby sites like Bateshwar Temples and Padavali for a full day from Gwalior.

Greatness of This Temple

This 11th-century temple is renowned for its unique circular architecture, symbolizing feminine divine energy (Shakti) and tantric traditions.

It is one of the best-preserved Yogini temples in India, part of a rare group emphasizing powerful female deities. Its design (open to the sky) links to ancient yogic, tantric, and possibly astronomical practices.

It offers panoramic views of surrounding fields and is gaining recognition as part of Madhya Pradesh's heritage push, including a tentative UNESCO listing.

Legends and History

History: Built during the Kachchhapaghata dynasty by King Devapala (r. c. 1055–1075 CE), with an inscription dated 1323 CE (Vikram Samvat 1383).
Originally dedicated to 64 Yoginis (fierce feminine spirits/manifestations of Shakti) and Shiva as their lord.

Legends: The Yoginis derive from myths where Goddess Durga created 64 yoginis to defeat a demon (Raktabija) by drinking his blood.
The temple may have been a site for tantric rituals, education in astrology/mathematics using solar transits, and worship of powerful female energies.
Over time, many Yogini statues were replaced or supplemented with Shiva Lingams.

Architecture of Temple, Deities, Sub-Deities

Architecture: Circular (radius ~170 feet), roofless (hypaethral), with 65 chambers (64 for Yoginis + 1 for Devi/Shiva) along the perimeter wall.
Central open mandapa/pavilion with concentric pillars, dedicated to Shiva. Features intricate carvings; rainwater collection system with underground storage.

Main Deities: Primarily Shiva (as Ekattarso Mahadeva, overlord of Yoginis) in the central shrine. Originally focused on 64 Yoginis (powerful goddesses linked to tantra/Shaktism).

Sub-Deities: Chambers now mostly house Shiva Lingams (some empty). Original Yogini figures (fierce, varied forms) are largely lost or relocated; emphasis shifted to Shiva worship.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

As an ASI-protected ancient monument, it functions more as a historical site than an active large-scale puja center.
Basic daily worship (like aarti, offerings to Shiva Lingams) occurs by local priests/devotees.
No standardized "charges" are officially listed—donations are voluntary.
Simple offerings (flowers, prasad) are common; tantric or special rituals are not prominently advertised.

Special Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges

Special rituals (e.g., during festivals) may involve local priests, but details are limited. No fixed charges found; voluntary contributions apply.
The site is not known for elaborate paid ceremonies like some active temples.

Festivals

Major Hindu festivals like Maha Shivaratri and Navratri see increased activity, with devotees offering prayers to Shiva and the Yogini tradition.

It attracts visitors during these times for its mystical aura.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Limited on-site facilities (basic, rural area). No temple-run accommodation.

Accommodation: Available in nearby Morena or Gwalior (hotels, guesthouses). No specific budget options directly at the site.

Nearby Budget Hotels: In Morena or Gwalior—options like basic lodges, OYO rooms, or MPTourism properties in Gwalior (e.g., Tansen Residency or similar; check mptourism.com).

Expect budget stays from ₹1000-3000/night.

Donation Info and Bank Account Number

No official bank account or donation details are publicly listed (ASI sites typically do not have direct donation accounts).

Voluntary offerings can be made on-site to priests or local management. For heritage support, check Madhya Pradesh Tourism or ASI channels.

Nearby Temples

- Bateshwar Temple Complex (group of ancient Shiva temples, nearby).
- Padavali (ancient temple ruins with interesting architecture).
- Garhi Padavali (fort-like site).
- Other Yogini temples in MP: Khajuraho and Bhedaghat (Jabalpur).

Other Tourist Attractions

- Bateshwar and Padavali temples (combine for a day trip).
- Gwalior Fort and city attractions (~40 km).
- Morena district rural landscapes and hill views from the temple.

Any Other Info

The temple is peaceful and less crowded, ideal for history/architecture enthusiasts.

Visit early morning for cooler climbs and better light. It's a protected site—respect rules (no littering, etc.).

Photography is allowed; the circular design and hilltop views are stunning. For latest updates, refer to Madhya Pradesh Tourism or local guides.

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Ref: ChatGpt

Chausath Yogini Temple, Mitawali (Madhya Pradesh)

1. **Location**
The famous Chausath Yogini Temple is located in Mitawali village in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh. It stands on a small hill and offers a beautiful panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

2. **Address**
Chausath Yogini Temple
Mitawali Village
Morena District – 476001
Madhya Pradesh, India

3. **Phone / Contact**

There is no dedicated temple office phone number because it is mainly maintained as a protected monument by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

For information, visitors may contact:

ASI – Gwalior Circle Office
Phone: +91-751-2344002 (may change)

4. **How to Reach**

By Air
Nearest airport: Gwalior Airport (about 40 km)

By Train
Nearest railway station: Morena Railway Station (about 35 km)

By Road
From Gwalior – about 40 km
From Morena – about 35 km
From Agra – about 65 km
Visitors must climb around 100 stone steps to reach the temple on the hilltop.

5. **Greatness and Importance of the Temple**

This temple is famous for several reasons:

• It is one of the very rare temples dedicated to the 64 Yoginis.
• Built in a circular design, it is considered one of the oldest circular temples in India.
• The design of the temple is believed by many scholars to have inspired the Indian Parliament building in New Delhi.
• The temple served as an important Tantric worship center in ancient times.
• It is one of the best preserved Yogini temples in India.

6. **Legends and History**

The temple was built around 1323 CE by King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty.
According to tradition:
• The king constructed the temple for Tantric worship of the 64 Yoginis, powerful female manifestations of the Divine Mother.
• Yoginis are considered attendants or manifestations of Goddess Durga or Kali.
• Tantric practitioners performed special spiritual rituals here for divine powers and protection.
• Because of its hilltop location, the temple was considered an ideal sacred site for meditation and secret rituals.
The temple is locally known as “Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple” because of the large number of Shiva lingas found here.

7. **Architecture of the Temple**

The architecture of this temple is extraordinary and unique.

Main features include:
• Built entirely using sandstone blocks
• Located on top of a circular hill platform
• Circular temple complex with a diameter of about 170 feet
• Around 64 small chambers arranged in a circle
• Each chamber once housed an idol of a Yogini
• In the center of the courtyard stands a circular Shiva temple

Important architectural highlights:

- Open circular courtyard
- Pillared verandah
- Stone steps leading to hilltop
- Symmetrical design
- The structure resembles a huge stone ring.

8. **Main Deity**

The main deity worshipped today is:
Lord Shiva (Mahadeva)
Installed in the central shrine.

9. **Yogini Deities**

Originally the temple had 64 Yogini statues, representing divine feminine energy.

Most of the original idols are damaged or missing today, but the temple chambers remain intact.

The Yoginis represent various aspects of Shakti (Divine Mother).

10. Sub-Deities

Inside the complex:
• Lord Shiva Lingam (central shrine)
• Some remaining Yogini sculptures
• Other small Shiva Lingas placed by devotees

11. **Daily Rituals and Poojas**

Since the monument is protected by ASI, regular temple rituals are limited.
Typical worship performed by local priests or devotees:
• Shiva Abhishekam

• Lighting of lamps
• Offering flowers
• Prayers to Lord Shiva

There are no officially fixed pooja charges.

Devotees generally make voluntary offerings.

12. **Special Poojas and Rituals**

Special worship is performed mainly on important Hindu occasions such as:

• **Mahashivaratri • Navaratri • Guru Purnima • Full Moon days**

Tantric practitioners sometimes visit for meditation and spiritual practices.

No fixed official fee system exists.

13. **Festivals**

Major festivals celebrated here include:

- Mahashivaratri
- A large number of devotees visit to worship Lord Shiva.
- Navaratri
- Devotees worship the Divine Mother and Yoginis.
- Kartik Purnima
- Special prayers and lighting of lamps.

14. **Facilities for Devotees**

Facilities at the temple are basic.
Available:

• Stone steps to reach the temple
• Open courtyard for meditation
• Parking area near hill base
• Drinking water (limited)

Not available:
• Accommodation at temple
• Large food facilities
Visitors usually stay in Morena or Gwalior.

15. **Accommodation**
No accommodation at the temple.
Devotees stay at:
Morena town (35 km)

or
Gwalior city (40 km)

16. **Donation Information**

Since the temple is under ASI protection, there is no official temple donation account.

Visitors may donate:

• To local priests
• For maintenance of nearby small shrines
• To ASI through official heritage channels

No publicly available bank account or UPI is maintained for this temple.

17. **Nearby Temples**

Important temples nearby include:

1. Bateshwar Temple Complex (35 km)
Over 200 ancient Shiva temples
2. Kakanmath Temple (near Morena)
A mysterious 11th century Shiva temple.
3. Chausath Yogini Temple, Morena
4. Sun Temple, Gwalior

18. **Other Tourist Attractions Nearby**

• Gwalior Fort – One of India's most magnificent forts
• Jai Vilas Palace
• Teli Ka Mandir
• Sas Bahu Temples
• National Chambal Sanctuary

19. **Nearby Budget Hotels**

Morena
• Hotel Shree Ram Palace
• Hotel Ganpati Palace
• Hotel Shri Krishna
Gwalior
• Hotel Grace
• Hotel Landmark
• Hotel Central Park
Budget rooms: ₹800 – ₹2500 per night.

20. **Best Time to Visit**
Best months:

October – March
Summer months can be very hot.
Morning and evening visits are recommended.

21. **Temple Timings**

Generally open:

6:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Entry may be regulated by ASI.

22. **Important Visitor Tips**

• Be prepared to climb about 100 steps
• Carry drinking water
• Wear comfortable footwear
• Respect the monument as a protected heritage site

23. **Unique Fact**

Many historians believe that the circular design of this temple inspired the architecture of the Indian Parliament building in New Delhi.

This makes the temple not only spiritually important but also historically significant in Indian architecture.

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Ref: Google Gemini

Chausath Yogini Temple (also known as the Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple) in Mitawali.

This temple is not just a place of worship but a marvel of ancient Indian engineering and mystical history.

Location and Accessibility

* **Address**: Mitawali Village, Morena District, Madhya Pradesh, India (PIN: 476001).
* **Phone**: No direct temple office line; it is an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monument. For official queries, contact the ASI Gwalior Circle.

* **How to Get There**:

  * **By Air:** Nearest airport is Gwalior Airport (GWL), approximately 30 km away.

  * **By Train**: Gwalior Junction is the most convenient major station (40 km). Morena station is closer (30 km) but has fewer express stops.

* **By Road**: It is best reached by hiring a taxi from Gwalior. The temple is part of a "Golden Triangle" circuit including Padawali and Bateshwar.

Greatness of This Temple

This temple is globally famous for its unique circular design.

It is widely believed to have been the architectural inspiration for the Old Parliament House (Sansad Bhavan) in New Delhi, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.

Its ability to withstand seismic shocks (it sits in Seismic Zone III) for centuries without structural damage is a testament to its engineering brilliance.

Legends and History

* **History**: Built in the 11th Century (approx. 1055–1075 CE) by King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty. An inscription dated 1323 CE also confirms its royal patronage.

* **Legends**: Anciently, it was a center for Tantric worship and education in Astrology and Mathematics.

It is said the transit of the sun was studied here using the circular layout. Local lore often links the temple to the mystical powers of the 64 Yoginis—female manifestations of the Divine Mother who protected the region.

Architecture and Deities

* **Design**: A circular, roofless (hypaethral) structure atop a 100-foot hill. It has a radius of about 52 meters and requires climbing approximately 100 steps.

* **Deities**: * Central Shrine: A large circular pavilion in the center housing a Shiva Linga.

* **Peripheral Shrines**: 64 small chambers line the inner circumference. Originally, these housed idols of the 64 Yoginis.

* **Sub-deities**: Most of the original Yogini statues have been moved to museums (Gwalior Fort Museum and Delhi). Today, almost every one of the 64 chambers contains a Shiva Linga, giving it the name Ekattarso Mahadeva (referring to the many Shiva forms).

Rituals, Festivals, and Facilities

* **Daily Rituals**: As an ASI-protected monument, there are no elaborate "temple-style" daily rituals conducted by a formal trust. Local priests or devotees may offer simple prayers, but there are no official charges for poojas.

* **Festivals**: Shivratri is the most prominent time when locals visit.
There is no specific large-scale "Yogini festival" held here currently, unlike the one in Hirapur, Odisha.

* **Facilities**: * Accommodation: No stay facilities at the temple. You must stay in Gwalior.

* **Food/Water**: Very limited. It is highly recommended to carry your own water and snacks.

* **Donations**: Since it is a government-protected monument, there is no private bank account for religious donations. Maintenance is funded by the Government of India.

Nearby Attractions and Budget Hotels

* **Nearby Temples**:

* Garhi Padawali (3 km): Known for its incredibly ornate carvings, often called a "Mini Khajuraho."
* Bateshwar Group of Temples (4 km): A complex of 200+ ancient Shiva and Vishnu temples currently being restored.
* Kakanmath Temple (23 km): A towering, "gravity-defying" ancient Shiva temple.

* **Nearby Budget Hotels (In Gwalior):**
* Hotel Mayur (Near Railway Station)
* Hotel Grace
* Hotel Land Mark
* MP Tourism's Tansen Residency (Mid-range but highly reliable).

More on legends, history…etc

Building on the information provided earlier, here are more specific details regarding the legends, historical context, and architectural marvels of the Chausath Yogini Temple at Mitawali.

1. **Deep History and "The Golden Triangle"**

While the temple is widely attributed to the Kachchhapaghata King Devapala (reign c. 1055–1075 CE), an inscription found at the site dated 1323 CE suggests significant patronage or reconstruction during that period.

* **The Tantric University**: Historians and archaeologists believe Mitawali was part of a "Golden Triangle" of learning along with the nearby sites of Padavali and Bateshwar.

* It was often referred to as a "Tantric University." Unlike modern universities, this was a center where advanced subjects like astrology, mathematics, and spiritual science were taught.
The curriculum was uniquely tied to the movement of celestial bodies, which could be easily observed from this high, open-to-sky vantage point.

2. **Architectural Brilliance & Engineering**
The temple is a masterpiece of dry masonry, meaning the massive sandstone blocks are precisely cut and interlocked without the use of mortar.

* **The Hypaethral (Open-to-Sky) Design:** Unlike most Hindu temples with a high shikhara (spire) over the sanctum, Yogini temples were purposely built roofless.
This allowed practitioners to perform rituals under the direct gaze of the Akasha (Sky), invoking cosmic energy without barriers.

* **The Vanished Shikharas**: Archaeological evidence suggests that originally, each of the 64 peripheral shrines and the central shrine did have small spires (latina-shaped).
These were likely removed or destroyed during later centuries, leaving the flat-roofed appearance we see today.

* **Ancient Rainwater Harvesting**: The temple features a sophisticated drainage system. Perforations in the central shrine's stone slabs allowed rainwater to flow into a massive underground storage tank.
Even the external pipelines used to lead water to this reservoir are still visible today.

* **Earthquake Resilience**: The temple sits in Seismic Zone III. Its circular shape and low center of gravity act as a natural shock absorber, allowing it to withstand numerous earthquakes over a millennium without structural failure.

3. **Legends & The Yogini Cult**

The temple was dedicated to the 64 Yoginis, who were considered manifestations of Shakti (Divine Feminine Energy).

* **The Secretive Cult:** The worship of Yoginis was an esoteric and secretive practice. It was believed that these deities possessed supernatural powers over life, death, and fertility.

Legends say that Tantric practitioners (Aghoris) would perform powerful rituals here at night to achieve Siddhi (spiritual perfection).

* **The "Flying" Deities**: A common legend associated with hypaethral temples is that the Yoginis were capable of flight.
The open-air design was intended to facilitate their arrival and departure during midnight rituals.

* **The 65th Chamber:** Interestingly, the Mitawali temple actually contains 65 chambers—64 for the traditional Yoginis and one additional chamber (Chamber 37, which is more intricately decorated) likely dedicated to a central goddess like Mahadevi or Chandi.

* **Transformation into Mahadeva Temple**: As the specific cult of Yogini worship faded around the 14th-15th century, the local population rebranded the site as Ekattarso Mahadeva ("The Temple of 101/Many Shivas").
This is why today you see a Shiva Linga in almost every cell where a female deity once stood.

4. **Connection to the Parliament House (Sansad Bhavan)**

While the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not officially confirmed that Edwin Lutyens used this temple as his blueprint for the Old Parliament House in Delhi, the resemblance is uncanny.

* Both are circular, feature a columned corridor (verandah), and have a central structure.

* Lutyens was known to visit the Gwalior region during his planning phases, and many scholars believe the "Circular Marvel" of Mitawali provided the fundamental geometry for India's most iconic administrative building.

Quick Summary for your Visit:

* **Best Time for Photography**: Early morning or just before sunset. The way the sunlight filters through the 64 chambers creates a hauntingly beautiful play of light and shadow.

* **Prohibition**: Note that it is strictly forbidden for humans or animals to stay overnight at the temple, maintaining its ancient aura of a "forbidden" or "mystical" site after dark.

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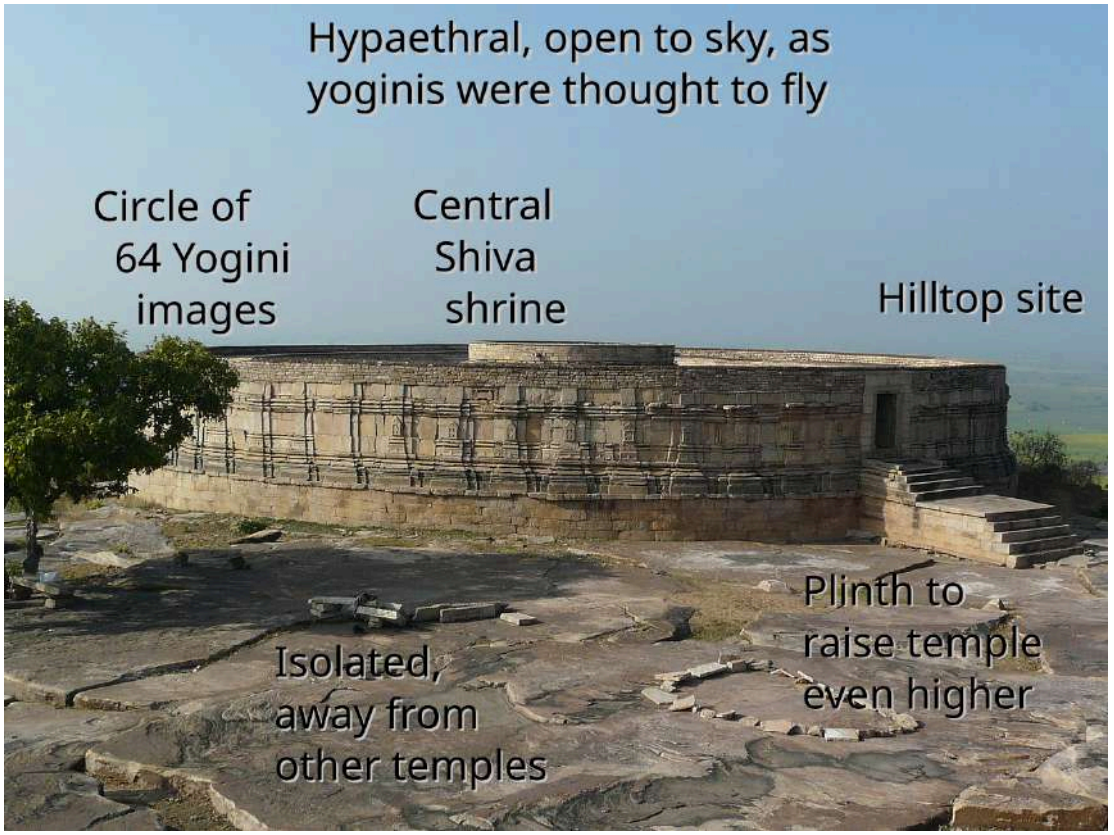
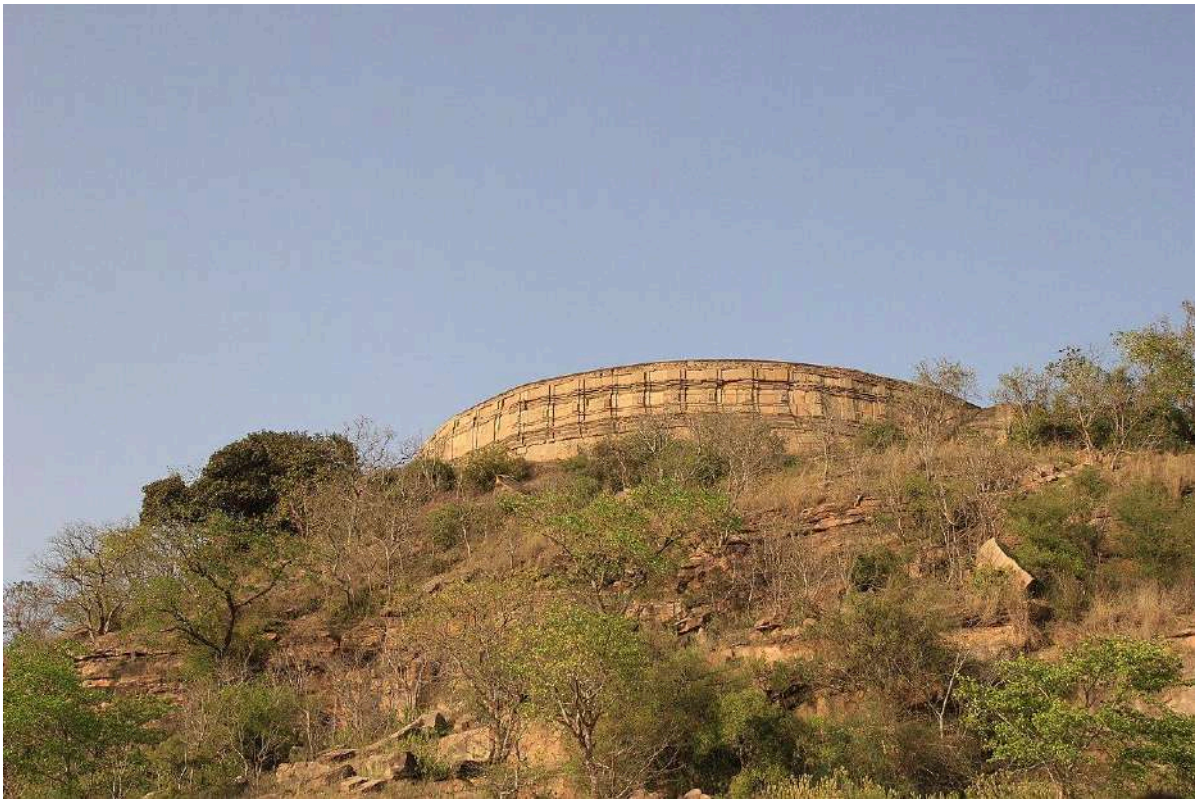
Photos

Chausath Yogini Temple, Mitaoli, Morena


Hypaethral, open to sky, as yoginis were thought to fly
Circle of 64 Yogini images
Central Shiva shrine
Hilltop site
Plinth to raise temple even higher
Isolated, away from other temples

Infographic on design of Yogini temples



Chausath yogini temple on hill top

Central shrine

Circular walk way

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Videos

Chausath yogini temple, Mitaoli (8 min):

https://youtu.be/fk3jzwg4ky4?si=CzRTww3VmxImcwmx

Chausath yogini temple (2 min):https://youtu.be/YkZjmBPFmqc?si=kQ3Yp8yLmWx8Hepp

Chausath yogini temple - FB (2 min): https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15b8obufTTe/

Detailed tour of Chausath yogini temple (10 min):

https://youtu.be/MZtYY_NAdT0?si=sw_iUU5_26-1Q5MK

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
March 9, 2026

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